



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Cambridge Accepting Nominations for the Cambridge Poet Populist

Nomination Deadline: Friday, January 11, 2013

Cambridge, MA –The City of Cambridge enthusiastically welcomes the launch of the local campaign for the fourth **Cambridge Poet Populist!** All Cambridge residents are encouraged to nominate their choice of a Cambridge poet to lead the City in a celebration of poetry for a two-year term. The nomination deadline is Friday, January 11, 2013. Nominees must be Cambridge residents and be nominated by a Cambridge resident. Nomination forms and guidelines are available at www.cambridgeartscouncil.org/poetpopulist

Several finalists will be selected from the pool of nominees in February 2013 by a panel of poets, literary professionals and community leaders appointed by the Cambridge Arts Council. Finalists will then participate in a series of public readings to accompany the public election process. Cambridge community members will vote on and elect the new Poet Populist during National Poetry Month in April 2013. Voting closes on April 8, 2013. For more information on the Poet Populist Program, please visit www.cambridgeartscouncil.org/poetpopulist

The **Poet Populist Program** is sponsored by the City of Cambridge, Cambridge Arts Council, and Cambridge Public Library. For more information, contact the Cambridge Arts Council at poetpopulist@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4380.

The **Cambridge Poet Populist** is an informal office for a local poet selected by Cambridge residents to represent the art of poetry for the City of Cambridge. The program is modeled, in part, upon Seattle's Poet Populist Project. The Cambridge Poet Populist program was developed in 2007 to celebrate the creation and appreciation of poetry throughout the city. The Poet Populist will be honored in an official capacity, receive a stipend, and maintain a schedule of public appearances for a two-year term. Cambridge poet Peter Payack initiated the role in 2007, and was succeeded by Jean-Dany Joachim in 2009.

Current **Cambridge Poet Populist Toni Bee** is a writer, photographer, and community advocate. Since being elected in 2011, Toni Bee has hosted several poetry readings and writing

workshops; and has participated in numerous Cambridge arts events and festivals. In August 2011, she opened the National Poetry Slam with *The BeeCool Poetry Music MashUp*. This fall, she performed at the first Kendall Square EatUp! event and emceed the Honk Festival community event at Clement Morgan Park in Cambridge. She was most recently honored with the appointment as Artist Fellow for the Citi Performing Arts Center in Boston.

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Cambridge Arts Council

The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working, and visiting Cambridge. www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380.

The Cambridge Arts Council is located in the Cambridge City Hall Annex at 344 Broadway, at the corner of Broadway and Inman Street. Metered parking is available on Inman Street and Broadway.

Directions via MBTA: Take the MBTA Red Line to Central Square. At street level proceed west on Massachusetts Avenue (towards Harvard Square) to Inman Street. Turn right and proceed north for four blocks to Broadway. Turn left and walk one block to Inman Street.

The Cambridge Arts Council is supported in part by the City of Cambridge, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

